DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed 6/23/11.

   - Claims 16, 24-27, 45, 47-49 are currently amended.
   - Claims 1-15, 17-23, 28, 31-44, and 50 are cancelled.
   - Claims 16, 24-27, 29-30, 45-49, and 51-52 are pending in the current Office Action.
   - This Action is Non-Final.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 16, 24-27, 29-30, 45-49, and 51-52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained through the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16, 24, 26, 29-30, 45-46, 48, and 51-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karabinis et al (US 2004/0192200 A1) in view of Gould et al (US 6134445).

Regarding Claims 16 and 45, Karabinis teaches a central station (Par.64:lines 6-8 and Par.65, serving base station), allocating satellite network resources in a satellite communication system (Par.41-42 and Par.65) comprising

remote stations coupled to the central station by a satellite network (Par.41-42 and Par.65, radio terminals are remote stations coupled to base station (i.e. central station) by satellite network), wherein different remote stations are located in different geographic domains (Fig.1: 130w, 130y, 130a are all in different geographic domains (i.e. locations), that is they are under coverage of different base stations), the method comprising: establishing a list of information about available satellite network resources for one or more of the geographic domains (Par.64:lines 6-8, available channels list for one or more base station locations (i.e. geographic domains)); publishing the list of information for access by remote stations in the one or more geographic domains (Par.65, radioterminal can pick one of the available channels so the list is sent to (i.e. published) radioterminal); receiving, from a remote station, a notification indicating that at least some of the satellite network resources have been seized by the remote station (Par.65:lines 5-12 and Par.66:lines 1-19); updating the list of information about available satellite network resources to reflect seizing by the remote station (Par.65); and communicating the updated list only to remote stations in the one or more geographic locations (Par.65), and while Kararbinis does teach that wherein the information comprises an updated available channels list (i.e. updated dynamic information) which is published (Par.65 and Par.66), **Karabinis does not expressly teach** wherein an updated version of the static information is published less frequently than an updated version of the dynamic information.

Gould teaches that updated version of static information is published less frequently than updated version of the dynamic information (Col.5:lines 55-58 and Fig.5-14, static information (i.e. 0-7) is not updated while dynamic information (i.e. indication of which channels are occupied) are updated frequently). Therefore, to one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to modify Karabinis with the teaching as seen in Gould to provide an enhanced system such that a remote device may determine which resources out of all the possible resources are actually available for use as network load and traffic varies.

Regarding Claims 24 and 46, Karabinis further teaches information about available satellite network resources comprises availability of channel capacity (Par.64-65, list of available channels is the availability of channel capacity).

Regarding Claims 26 and 48, Karabinis further teaches the list of information is published using one of CDMA and TDMA modulation (Par.67).

Regarding Claims 29 and 51, Gould teaches the static information comprises, in regard to inbound and outbound channels (Col.5:lines 55-58, occupied channels are used for inbound and outbound communications) that are allocated for use in a resource domain, at least one of frequency (Col.5:lines 22-29 and Col.5:lines 56-67).

Regarding Claim 30 and 52, Karabinis teaches the dynamic information comprises information regarding a current status of a channel including at least one of channel free (Par.65-66).

5. Claims 25 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karabinis et al (US 2004/0192200 A1) and Gould et al (US 6134445) in further view of Chheda et al (US 6151512).

Regarding Claim 25 and 47, Karabinis and Gould teaches all the limitations as recited in Claim 16 and 45, however **Karabinis and Gould do not expressly teach** communicating an amended list of information about available network resources that reflects a change in the size of the at least one of the geographic domains.

Chheda teaches that it is well known in the art that a geographical domain (i.e. base station coverage area) may be adjusted (Col.2:lines 36-45, base station coverage area is sectorized) and as a result, the available channels per sector is increased (Col.2:lines 36-45). It is obvious that Karabinis and Goulds teaching of notification of an updated list of available resources would apply such that the additional channels would be amended into the list of information about available network resources to reflect the increased channels per sector. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Karabinis with Chheda at the time of the invention such that a remote station may be aware of all possible resources within their service area that it may utilize in order to provide the best possible quality of service.

6. Claims 27 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karabinis et al (US 2004/0192200 A1) and Gould et al (US 6134445).

Regarding Claims 27 and 49, Karabinis teaches that the system comprises said plurality of remote stations (Fig.1) coupled to a plurality of central stations

(Fig.1, plural base stations); and although **Karabinis does not expressly teach** a said remote station may transit between operation with one said central station to any other said central station for which the remote station can receive incoming communications for the central stations.

The examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is well known in the art that a mobile station can roam between different central stations and be handed off to receive incoming communications from another central station. This way communications reliability is maintained while roaming.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WESLEY KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-7867. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on 571-272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wesley L Kim/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617